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# Robb Report

FOR THE LUXURY LIFESTYLE™

## The Best of 2007

AN EXCLUSIVE PREVIEW



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Capella Castlemartyr

states. "Guests want activity around them, to feel part of life and the world. But they also want to feel at home."

Furthermore, claims Schulze, large properties cannot deliver the personalized service that he plans to establish as the hallmark of the Capella brand. "Once a five-star hotel starts booking large meetings, it no longer deserves the high rating," he says. "They simply cannot do it and still provide the necessary service."

Schulze's focus on service is reflected in his company's name. Capella, a point on the charioteer's shoulder in the constellation Auriga, actually is a binary system, with two stars revolving around each other. The hotel chain's double-star logo represents what Schulze sees as an intimate relationship between staff and guest. "We want to awaken the feeling of being in your mother's house," he says, "where you were taken care of as a matter of course."

Capella Hotels & Resorts, 404.649.7030, [www.capellahotels.com](http://www.capellahotels.com)

## APPROACHING RETREATS

THE FIVE PROPERTIES from Capella are among several promising new hotels and resorts that will open in the next two years. Highlights range from Ritz-Carlton's first hotel in Russia to an environmentally sustainable hideaway on Marlon Brando's former atoll in Polynesia.

**Mayakoba:** This new megaresort along Mexico's Riviera Maya, 40 minutes south of Cancún, will include five luxury hotels: the Fairmont (opened this year); La Casa Que Canta, Banyan Tree, and Laguna Kai (2007); and the Viceroy (2008). All of the properties will be linked by a system of lagoons navigable by complimentary *lan-chas* (covered boats). [www.mayakoba.com](http://www.mayakoba.com)

**Verdura Golf & Spa Resort:** British hotelier Sir Rocco Forte's first resort will open in 2007 on the coast of Sicily. The \$165 million development will include a 200-room hotel, a private beach, and two Kyle Phillips-designed golf courses. [www.rocco.fortehotels.com](http://www.rocco.fortehotels.com)

**The Ritz-Carlton, Moscow:** Overlooking Moscow's Red Square, the Ritz-Carlton will feature the largest guest rooms and the first full-service hotel spa in the city. Interiors will be based on turn-of-the-19th-century

Imperial Russia designs, and Michelin-three-star German chef Heinz Winkler will helm the hotel's Jeroboam restaurant. [www.ritzcarlton.com](http://www.ritzcarlton.com)

**The Brando:** Following Marlon Brando's death in July 2004, hotelier Richard Bailey acquired 60-year leasing rights to Tetiaroa, the actor's private Polynesian atoll 26 miles north of Tahiti. Bailey, who owns four InterContinental resorts in Polynesia, is developing one of Tetiaroa's 13 *motu* (islets) into an eco-friendly, 30-villa resort scheduled to open in 2008. The retreat will use desalination technology to provide drinking water, solar panels for energy, and a micro treatment plant to process waste. [www.thebrandeoceohotel.com](http://www.thebrandeoceohotel.com)

**Mandarin Oriental, Barcelona:** Located along the Paseo de Gracia, this renovated mid-20th-century structure will house 92 guest rooms, 52 suites, a spa, and a

rooftop pool with views of Barcelona's skyline. [www.mandarinoriental.com](http://www.mandarinoriental.com)

**Solage Calistoga:** Mark Harmon, CEO of Auberge Resorts, will unveil his new Solage Hotels & Resorts boutique brand with the opening of this Napa Valley property in May 2007. The 89-room resort, which will feature a more contemporary design style than Auberge's properties, will include bocce courts, fire pits, a 130-foot pool, and a spa in which guests can be painted with volcanic mud. [www.solagehotels.com](http://www.solagehotels.com)

**St. Regis Resort & Residences, Bali:** The St. Regis will be the latest luxury resort along the white-sand beaches of Nusa Dua on Bali's southeastern coast. Guests will stay in one of 74 suites or 29 stand-alone villas and will have access to an outdoor swimming pool, a spa, and four restaurants. [www.stregis.com](http://www.stregis.com)

—JENNIFER HALL